

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: June YEAR: 2011
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Troy Lindquist Service Hydrologist
DATE: July 14, 2011	
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

☐ **An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.**

Overview

Cool spring conditions continued into June with below normal temperatures delaying the melt of abundant snowpack in the upper Snake River and the Bear River basins. The June 1 mountain snowpack was one of the highest ever to occur across much of eastern Idaho. By the middle of June, many higher elevation SNOTEL sensors in the Snake River headwaters and the Bear River basin still contained well over 25 inches of snow water equivalent (SWE) with up to 70 inches of SWE at the Grand Targhee SNOTEL. Reservoir operators maintained large reservoir discharges and high flows on the Snake River to accommodate the expected large inflows from the remaining snowpack. Governor Otter visited eastern Idaho on June 9 to assess the flooding.

Flooding which began in May continued in June on many waterways including the Henrys Fork River, Teton River, Snake River, Portneuf River and the Bear River. Numerous small creeks continued to flow out of banks especially in counties near the Wyoming border. Heavy rain and snowmelt produced record flows on the Henrys Fork at St. Anthony on June 8. Widespread flooding of agricultural lands and structures continued along the Henrys Fork and Snake River above American Falls Reservoir. The prolonged high flows on the Snake River below Palisades Dam continued to cause bank erosion and structural concerns of levees and some bridges. Three counties in the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area were under state disaster declarations while four others were under county declarations.

River Flooding

Rainfall events on top of snowmelt caused the Teton River near St. Anthony (TEAI1) to peak above the flood stage of 6.0 feet several times during the month. The highest crest of 6.61 feet and 5,976 cfs occurred the evening of June 15. Numerous agricultural fields and low lands were flooded affecting some farm equipment. Minor bank erosion occurred along portions of the levee.

The Henrys Fork River at St. Anthony (ANTI1) rose to flood stage of 7.0 feet June 7 through June 9. The river crested at a record level of 8.84 feet and 14,015 cfs on June 8. One home about two miles east of St. Anthony was flooded with 3 to 4 feet of water in the basement. A number of homes had water covering the yards and some outbuildings were flooded. Keefer Park in St. Anthony flooded, a city water pipe was damaged from debris in the river and a portion of South River Road was covered with floodwaters. Extensive flooding of lowlands and pasturelands occurred near St. Anthony.



Figure 1 Henrys Fork flooding near St. Anthony

The Henrys Fork River near Rexburg (REXI1) remained above the flood stage of 9.5 feet through the month of June except from the afternoon of June 4 through the morning of June 7. The river reached major flood stage and crested at 11.85 feet and 14,733 cfs on June 9. Extensive flooding of agricultural and low lands occurred. Water flooded the crawl space to one home, Beaver Dick Park flooded, river access recreation areas flooded as did portions of county roads. Water covered a road in the Warm Slough Access to a depth of over one foot.

The Snake River near Heise (HEII1) rose above flood stage of 8.0 feet from late evening June 6 through the morning of June 8. A crest of 8.31 feet and 26,741 cfs occurred on June 8. Lowland flooding occurred and the extended period of high flows caused erosion and structural concerns at the Archer Highway north Twin Bridge.

The Snake River near Shelley (SHYI1) remained above flood stage of 12.0 feet from the end of May through the morning of June 6, and then rose above flood stage again June 8 through June 12. The river rose to major flood stage and a crest of 13.01 feet and 30,300 cfs on June 10. County Road 700 North southwest of Firth was closed due to high water. A number of homes along 700 North were surrounded by water with yards and outbuildings flooding. In Firth the Riverview Arena was partially underwater and extensive flooding of lowland and agricultural fields occurred between Firth and Rose. Minor flooding of greenbelt and a walking path adjacent to the river occurred in Idaho Falls.



Figure 2 Levee breach flooding near Rose

The Snake River at Blackfoot (SNAI1) remained above flood stage of 10.0 feet from the end of May through the afternoon of June 13, and then rose above flood stage again June 17 through June 19. Water levels reached moderate flood stage and crested at 11.79 feet and 29,700 cfs the evening of June 10. There was widespread flooding in the Riverton area resulting in the closure of Riverton Road with several homes threatened. A number of homes and access roads were threatened in the Thomas area near Riverbend Road and Wilson Road. Berm construction and sandbagging appeared to have been successful in these areas. Archery Range Road near the Rose Overpass was submerged and impassable for a period. In Blackfoot, sub-water seepage into Jensens Grove caused minor flooding of the park. Flooding of lowland and agricultural fields occurred adjacent to the river between Rose and Tilden Bridge.

The Portneuf River at Pocatello (PIHI1) remained above flood stage of 8.5 feet from the end of May through June 18. The river crested at 9.28 feet and 1,051 cfs on June 11. Extensive lowland flooding occurred near Inkom. Pasture and livestock corrals were flooded in the vicinity of the Portneuf River and Marsh Creek confluence. Lowland flooding occurred along the river between Portneuf Gap and the Cheyenne Avenue Bridge in Pocatello. Downstream of the concrete flood control channel through Pocatello minor flooding of lowland and a city recreation trail occurred from Sacajawea Park to Pacific Recycling Park.

Jefferson County – high flows on the Snake River flooded over 1,100 acres of cropland. The Menan Buttes Public Access boat ramp and a recreational day use area and boat ramp adjacent to Highway 48 remained flooded. A power line which ran under the river near Lorenzo was unburied and snapped due to the high flows.

Bingham County – extensive flooding of crop and pasture land occurred along the lower end of the Blackfoot River between Blackfoot and the confluence with the Snake River. Wolverine Road east of Blackfoot received washout damage.

Minidoka County – higher than normal flows on the Snake River continued to cause minor flooding of properties in Heyburn. Yards and boat docks were flooded in the Crow Island vicinity and some properties along the river were sandbagged.

Bear Lake County - extensive lowland and field flooding occurred along the Bear River upstream of Stewart Dam. Two homes in the Dingle area were surrounded by water. Water encroached on some outbuildings and agricultural supplies were flooded in low lying areas. Water covered a portion of Pegram Road near the town of Pegram. The Bear Border (BRBW4) river gage was inundated with water. Extensive flooding of fields occurred along the lower end of the Thomas Fork near the confluence with the Bear River.



Figure 3 Bear River flooding Pegram Road in Bear Lake County

Small Stream and Flash Flooding

Bear Lake County - small creeks draining the Idaho Wasatch Mountains into Bear Lake and the Bear River continued to exceed their banks and impact back country roads. High water was impacting some yards and a hay barn along Paris Creek and Fish Haven Creek. Montpelier Creek continued to cause minor flooding of some properties in the canyon east of the town of Montpelier in early June.

Caribou County - many creeks flowing toward Wyoming continued to exceed their banks and cause minor flooding including Tin Cup Creek. Back country roads continued to be impacted by high water.

Fremont County - on June 7 several thunderstorms produced heavy rainfall in the Ashton, Marysville and Warm River area causing flash flooding. One mile north of Ashton a potato cellar with machinery inside was flooded with 3 feet of water. Four cabins at the Log Cabin Motel in Ashton were flooded. A mudslide temporarily closed one lane of Highway 20. USFS Wood 1 Road was washed out and significant flooding of fields occurred.

Teton County – On June 7 heavy rain on top of snowmelt caused Badger Creek to flood causing enough damage to County Road 10000 North for it to be closed several weeks. The last week of June warmer temperatures caused Teton, Darby, Fox and Trail Creeks to spill out of banks in places resulting in damage to county roads. Highway 33 between Driggs and Victor had water up to six inches deep running across it from Darby and Fox Creeks. Some property owners used sandbags to keep water off their property. Along the Teton River near Driggs water inundated lowland and river access boat ramps.



Figure 1 Darby Creek flooding in Teton County

Clark County - heavy rain on top of snowmelt caused extensive flooding of pasture and fields along Camas Creek June 6 through June 9. Water flooded and caused extensive damage and washouts to several county roads in the Kilgore and Idmon areas. A few livestock corrals and outbuildings were flooded and a few homes in Kilgore had water in the yards.

Reservoirs

Bear Lake experienced its highest rise in water levels in more than 40 years. In 1965, the lake rose 7.68 feet and this year the lake rose 9 feet by the end of June. The higher water levels eliminated vast amounts of beach that recreationalists and property owners became accustomed to over the last decade.

Reservoir	% Capacity May 31¹	% Capacity Jun 30²	Percent Change	% of Average²	% of Last Year²
American Falls	97	97	0	120	101
Bear Lake	63	78	15	101	159
Blackfoot	93	96	3	121	131
Henry's Lake	97	98	1	99	99
Island Park	86	99	13	104	103
Little Wood	90	100	10	120	100
Mackay	59	100	41	123	102
Magic	96	100	4	132	114
Oakley	70	76	6	144	193
Palisades	37	77	40	85	77
Ririe	96	100	4	115	100
Lake Walcott	98 ³	96 ⁴	-2	n/a	n/a
Milner	93 ³	80 ⁴	-13	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) NRCS May 31, 2011; (2) NRCS June 30, 2011.

(3) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) May 27, 2011 (4) BOR June 27, 2011

cc: Mike Schaffner, Western Region HCSD
Harold Opitz, Hydrologist in Charge, Northwest River Forecast Center
Michelle Schmidt, Hydrologist in Charge, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Hydrometeorological Information Center
Rick Dittmann, Meteorologist in Charge, Pocatello, Idaho
Jay Breidenbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Boise, Idaho
Pocatello WFO Forecasters and HMTs